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96-10

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	]	
BUCK	]	Art Unit: 3711
	]	
Serial No.: 10/820,769	]	
	]	Examiner:
Filed: 04/09/2004	]	
	]	
For: GOLF MAT AND PATTERN	]	

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Honorable Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith for independent review by the Examiner, is a copy of the documents listed on a listing form also submitted herewith. Comments relating to these documents are set forth in the patent application (see Background of the Invention; also see page 3, lines 16-25), and are hereby incorporated herein by reference. In addition, the following comments are provided.

More than one year prior to the filing of the subject patent application, disclosure of the subject invention occurred to third parties, with an understanding or expectation of confidentiality. To the knowledge of applicant, prior to the filing of the subject patent application, confidentiality was maintained.

These disclosures included disclosure of a drawing of a pattern of some likeness to that of Fig. 1, to a carpet manufacturer for manufacture of ONE green prototype mat having the pattern marked thereon in white. A purpose was to have a prototype mat of adequate size with the white pattern on a green carpet background to assist in visual evaluation. It was understood that the material of which the prototype mat would be made, would not be suitable for use as a golf mat. The carpet material used for the prototype mat, is subject to tear from contact by golf clubs, and lacks shock absorption capability preventing injury to a user accidentally contacting the mat when swinging a golf club.

The ONE mat was made at a cost charged by the manufacturing corporation. Due to financial circumstances, the cost of the mat was paid for, on a loan basis, by a third party who received the mat from the corporation, and then handed over the mat. The third party, with whom there was an understanding

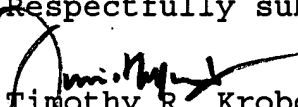
of confidentiality, was reimbursed for the loan.

Thus, this was a situation in which the pattern was disclosed to a carpet manufacturer, and the carpet manufacturer was paid for its services in fabricating ONE prototype mat having the pattern marked thereon. Furthermore, as indicated, the carpet manufacturer was not, and is not, in the business of manufacturing a substrate for the pattern, useful as a golf mat. Moreover, as explained, this was not a situation in which the manufacturing corporation functioned as a supplier of goods intended for commercialization.

Subsequently, more than one year prior to the filing of the subject patent application, the prototype mat was shown to third parties, with an understanding or expectation of confidentiality; in the course thereof, no offer of sale was made.

An early action on the merits is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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ATTY. DOCKET NO.

96-10

SERIAL NO.

10/820,769

## LIST OF ART CITED BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary) FEB 22 2005

APPLICANT  
BuckFILING DATE  
04/09/2004GROUP  
3711

## PATENT &amp; TRADEMARK DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	1 4 84 39 0	2/24	Gibbs et al			
	AB	2 7 07 63 8	5/55	Manley			
	AC	3 3 50 10 1	10/67	Bishop et al			
	AD	4 0 00 90 5	01/77	Shirhall			
	AE	4 8 05 91 3	02/89	Bott			
	AF	4 9 15 38 7	04/90	Baxstrom			
	AG	5 0 71 13 0	12/91	Shofner			
	AH	5 1 63 68 6	11/92	Bergman			
	AI	5 3 06 01 1	04/94	Perry			
	AJ	5 5 90 88 2	01/97	Todd			
	AK	5 6 45 49 4	07/97	Dionne et al			

	AL	6 4 82 10 2	11/02	Grabowski			
	AM	D 3 08 08 7	05/90	Buffey			
	AN						
	AO						
	AP						

## OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AR		
	AS		
	AT		

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.